

Series: "TALK IS CHEAP"
Part 4: "FIGHTING FAVORITISM"
Crossroads Community Church
July 30, 2023

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:1-4 (NIV)

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?⁶ But you have dishonored the poor.

James 2:5-6a (NIV)

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NIV)

Four Reasons Favoritism is a Big Deal:

1. It _____ God's _____

Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

James 1:6b-7 (NIV)

2. It _____ no _____

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

James 2:8-11 (NIV)

3. It _____ God's _____

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:12-13 (NIV)

4. It _____ to _____

How to Fight the Favoritism and Discrimination in Our Hearts:

1. Remember where you'd be _____

¹⁰ As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one."

Romans 3:10-12 (NIV)

2. Be more concerned about _____ than
 condemning the _____

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 2:1 (NIV)

3. Build _____ with _____ people